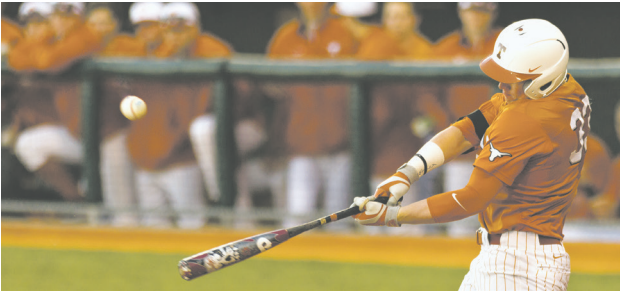


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LIFE&ARTS PAGE 8



SPORTS PAGE 6

# THE DAILY TEXAN

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CITY

## Groups split support in HD 49 race

**By Forrest Milburn & Caleb Wong**  
@thedailytexan

University Democrats and Central Austin Democrats endorsed different candidates for House District 49 on Sunday, establishing a divide in widely coveted support from two of Austin's top Democratic institutions.

With just two weeks of campaigning left before early voting on Feb. 16, former legislative aide and 2014 UT graduate Huey Rey Fischer won the endorsement from UDems, while Austin ISD school board member Gina Hinojosa won the CAD endorsement.

"The students are taking me to the Capitol," Fischer said. "This is our opportunity to really have youth representation heard in the pink dome just a few blocks away from the UT campus, and it's great momentum for our campaign."

Fischer, a former UDems president, has been actively working alongside campus organizations to increase student voter participation.

UDems chose to endorse Fischer largely for his campus outreach and positions on key issues such as sexual assault and student loan debt, UDems communications director Maliha Mazhar said.

"Us endorsing him shows to the community that all the stuff Huey has been saying [about representing] students is, in fact, the truth."

Throughout the primary campaign, Hinojosa received more than 200 endorsements from groups around Austin, including her most recent from the Austin American-News.

Us endorsing him shows to the community that all the stuff Huey has been saying [about representing] students is, in fact, the truth.

—Maliha Mazhar, Government senior

**HD 49** page 3

CAMPUS

## Students in UT directory susceptible to scammers

**By Mikaela Cannizzo**  
@mikaelac16

Personal information available through the University's online directory makes UT students prime targets for scam artists, according to UTPD police officers.

UTPD officer William Pieper said a recent scam affecting students begins with a fraudulent call from a phone number that appears to be from law enforcement. After convincing the student he or she owes money to the government, the scammer directs the student to purchase a prepaid credit card and give the scammer the card information.

"We've seen [the scam] now for more than a year, and with tax season coming, we suspect more and more of these calls will be sent to students," Pieper said. "Because everything's done over the phone, the callers can be anywhere worldwide."

Pieper said easily accessible information in the UT directory, which includes student emails, phone numbers and home addresses, has provided scammers with necessary tools to deceive students. To prevent this from occurring, Pieper recommends students take advantage of the opt-out policy and restrict their available information.

"If students go online and restrict that information, the scammers won't have access and they should never receive the phone calls," Pieper said.

NATIONAL

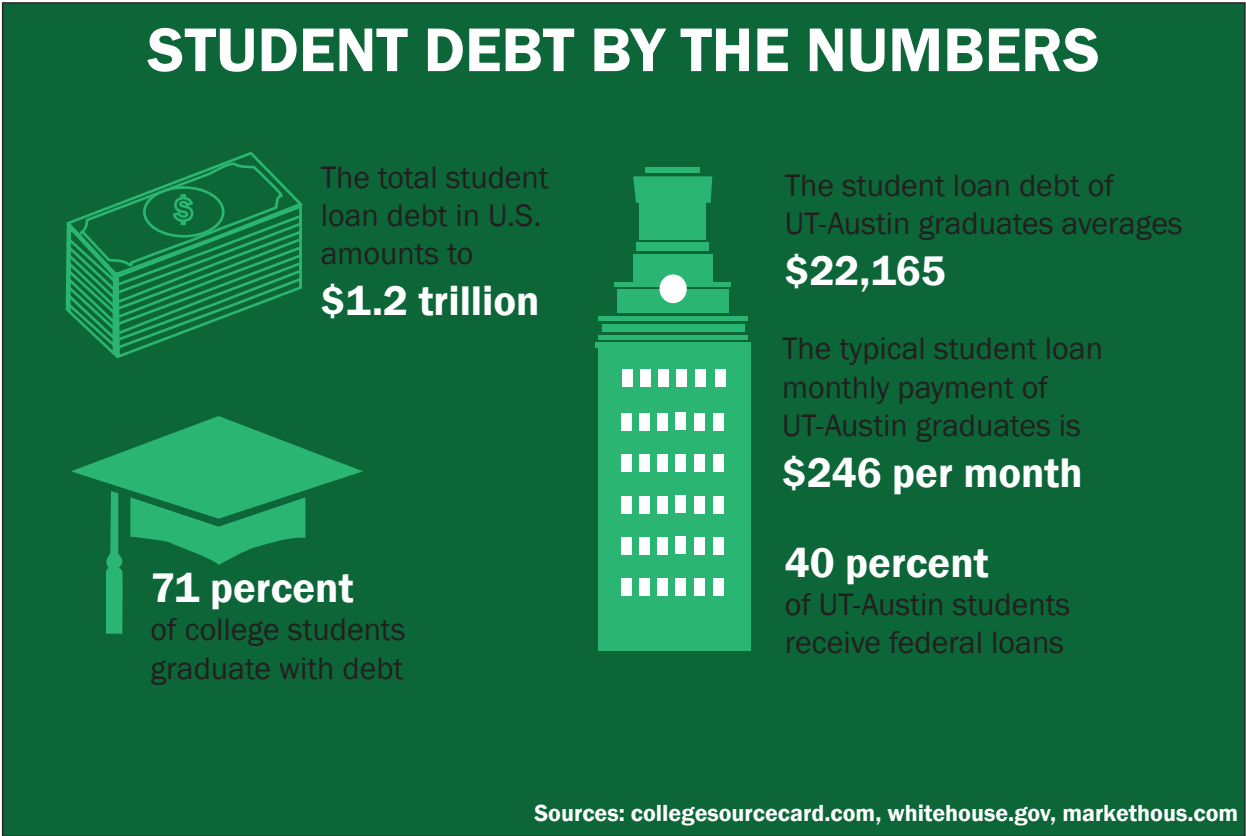
## College cost plans differ in 2016 election

**By Caleb Wong**  
@caleber96

College affordability has become an increasingly important issue in the presidential campaign, but each candidate has a distinct and different plan to tackle this issue that many students face.

Marco Rubio has discussed his own college debt and the amount of time it took to pay it off. Bernie Sanders has railed against Wall Street at his rallies, promising a tax on Wall Street speculation to pay for free tuition at public institutions.

Maliha Mazhar, communications director for University Democrats, said the Republican emphasis on cutting taxes is at odds with increasing access to higher education. She said



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**DIRECTORY** page 2

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff

Emma Dietrich will give a talk on spider silk at Science Under the Stars at the Brackenridge Field Laboratory on Thursday.

## UT alumna speaks on potential of spider silk

**By Danielle Ransom**  
@thedailytexan

Students may not be able to swing through the city skyline on spider webs, but they are one step closer to having consumer goods make out of spider silk.

Researchers and biotechnology companies have begun genetically modifying viable organisms, such as goats, to produce spider silk for consumer goods.

"Spider silk is simply a fascinating material, not only because of its potential use in a variety of human products, but because of its really interesting and unique natural history," said Emma Dietrich, a graduate student in the UT Department of Integrative Biology.

Companies are in the early phases of developing spider silk products, but they plan to produce goods as soon as they figure out how to manufacture silk wholesale, according to Dietrich.

Dietrich will give a talk on

**SPIDER SILK** page 2

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Research changes understanding of RNA

**By Samah Khan**  
@Samahk9

A new laboratory technique that reveals the intricate workings of genetic material is developing at UT-Austin. UT graduate student Brant Gracia researches how RNA molecules form functional shapes to improve researchers' understanding of and ability to manipulate these molecules.

RNA enables and controls the expression of genetic material in organisms such as humans. Gracia's research on RNA has applications in medicine, therapeutics and pharmaceuticals.

Because RNA is a single-stranded molecule, it can rearrange itself from its secondary, linear structure into a three-dimensional "tertiary" structure that takes up space. Previously, scientists believed the secondary and tertiary structures to be infinitely cooperative, meaning one structure could not occur without the other, according to the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Gracia contributed knowledge about the behaviors



UT graduate student Brant Gracia is developing new laboratory techniques to further knowledge about the structure of RNA. His techniques include rigorous quantification and tertiary structure modification.

Samah Khan  
Daily Texan Staff

and potential applications of RNA by discovering that the secondary and tertiary structures could, in fact, be induced separately.

"The immediate implications of my research are how to quantitatively dissect and understand molecules and their mechanisms," Gracia said. "By studying the details of these RNA structures, others can hopefully come up with clever ways to engineer a useful molecule."

Gracia is not alone in his endeavor to discover the dynamic possibilities of RNA. UT research educator Gwen

Stovall leads a Freshman Research Initiative (FRI) stream that develops aptamers, which are sequences of RNA or DNA, to perform specific functions. Stovall's stream has designed therapeutic RNA sequences to target proteins involved in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's. Stovall predicts that designing an aptamer that stops these diseased proteins from functioning could lead to successful medical and diagnostic applications in the future.

"I think that we are pushing the needle forward," Stovall said. "I feel that our research

is not only developing oligonucleotide (nucleic acid molecule) tools that have very beneficial applications to the new world, but it is making fantastic scientists [who] will be solving the real challenges we face today."

Gracia has fulfilled Stovall's prediction in a profound way: by founding UT's scientific outreach organization, called "Present your Ph.D. thesis to a 12 year-old." This program allows graduate students such as Gracia to introduce K-12 students to the research tract

**RNA** page 3

NEWS	OPINION	SPORTS	LIFE&ARTS	ONLINE	REASON TO PARTY
SG hopes to establish entrepreneurship hub. <b>PAGE 3</b>	African-Americans are being priced out of Austin. <b>PAGE 4</b>	Men's basketball faces tall task down the stretch. <b>PAGE 6</b>	UT professor discusses minority women in film. <b>PAGE 8</b>	Prefer puppies to football? Check out our video recap of the Puppy Bowl at  <b>dailytexanonline.com</b>	 <b>PAGE 7</b>
Five planets will align across the sky this month. <b>ONLINE</b>	The Iowa caucuses were politics at its very worst. <b>PAGE 4</b>	Baseball shuts out former Longhorns in alumni game. <b>PAGE 6</b>	Shoegaze band DIIV releases sophomore LP. <b>PAGE 8</b>		



THE  
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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High  
72



Low  
46

I need Cam to score right now so he can dab.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



Zoe Fu | Daily Texan Staff

Hendrix, 3, holds Genie, a two-month-old border collie mix, under the supervision of volunteer Joann Cass at the ninth annual Puppy Bowl hosted by the Austin Humane Society on Saturday. The Puppy Bowl is a Super Bowl-themed free adoption event.

DIRECTORY

continues from page 1

In an attempt to further eliminate scams and address student safety concerns, Sergio Cavazos, policy director for the Senate of College Councils, said the Senate passed a resolution in October supporting an opt-in, as opposed to opt-out, policy for the directory.

Cavazos, a government junior, said the opt-in option will be similar to the current opt-out one, but will allow students to decide what information they want to publicize prior to it being published in the directory.

“We decided that we wanted to take a proactive approach, especially with all the concerns about campus safety that have come up within the past school year,” Cavazos said. “This will ensure that students don’t have that sensitive information easily accessible to the public.”

Cavazos said the resolution is currently in the planning

stages, but hopes to have the opt-in policy implemented by the beginning of next school year.

While Pieper said not all students targeted by the scam proceed with the caller and end up getting their money swindled, every student who receives a call should file a police report since more information allows UTPD to better track and identify the suspects.

Electrical engineering sophomore Hannah Peeler said she recently dealt with this scam when a man called her and told her she needed to pay a certain amount of money to avoid being arrested. After walking to the bank and withdrawing \$980, she was directed to transfer the funds at Speedy Cash while staying on the phone with him the whole time.

After arriving at Speedy Cash, Peeler said employees informed her of the scam after asking her questions about why she was visibly upset. Peeler then hung up the phone without providing any of the money or information the caller was after, and later reported the incident to the Austin Police Department.

“I’ve been called before and people have asked for my social security number or my credit card information, and those are obviously scams,” Peeler said. “But this time, there was just a fear that gripped me and I just went along with it until I went to the Speedy Cash.”

LOANS

continues from page 1

both Hillary Clinton’s and Sanders’ plans would make strides toward affordability with Congress’ help.

“In order to have a level playing field, it seems as if education is the only way to do that,” government senior Mazhar said. “I’d rather my tax dollars go to higher education.”

Robert Guerra, communications director for College Republicans, said Republicans will manage higher education costs better than Democrats would.

“I think what it comes down to is a willingness on the left to throw money at the problem and add more to the budget,” finance junior Guerra said.

Here is an overview of the candidates’ plans:

Marco Rubio:

Rubio is seeking to allow graduates to pay off their loans in proportion to their incomes, according to his campaign website. He also wants to allow individuals to invest in college students’ tuition in return for a portion of their future income.

“If I’m our nominee, how is Hillary Clinton gonna lecture me about living paycheck to paycheck?” Rubio said during the debate. “I owed over \$100,000 just four years ago.”

Rubio has not laid out an

exact cost for his plan, but his advisors have said it will not increase spending, according to CNN.

Ted Cruz:

Cruz said he wants to eliminate the Department of Education and grant general-purpose education funding to states.

Cruz has not rolled out a full-fledged plan to tackle college affordability.

“I had six figures in student loans. I just paid off my student loans five or six years ago,” Cruz said in an interview with the Skimm. “We’ve got to return to an environment where small businesses are growing and flourishing and creating jobs and opportunities.”

Donald Trump:

Trump said the federal government should not turn a profit off of student loan debt.

“That’s probably one of the only things the government shouldn’t make money off — I think it’s terrible that one of the only profit centers we have is student loans,” Trump said in an interview with The Hill.

Hillary Clinton:

Last August, Clinton released a plan for students to graduate without loans from public universities and attend community college for free. Clinton also seeks to cut interest

rates on student loans and create an income-based repayment program, according to her campaign website. She estimates this will cost \$350 billion, financed through \$175 billion in block grants to the states, increased state spending on education and fewer tax deductions for high-income earners. Students, she said, would need to work 10 hours a week to graduate debt-free.

“This is one of my biggest ... priorities and I will be addressing it from the first day I become president,” Clinton said in a Facebook Q&A.

Bernie Sanders:

Sanders has the most sweeping plan of all the candidates: make tuition free at public colleges.

“Too many of our young people cannot afford a college education, and those who do go to college are faced with crushing debt,” Sanders said at a forum last April. “This is enormously important if we are to rebuild our middle class and if we are going to be competitive in the global economy.”

Sanders also wants to cut student loan interest rates and allow students to refinance their existing loans at lower interest rates. He said this program will cost \$75 billion per year and be financed through a tax on Wall Street speculation.

SPIDER SILK

continues from page 1

the possibilities of spider silk at Science Under the Stars, which will be hosted at the Brackenridge Field Laboratory on Thursday.

Researchers have been studying the genetic makeup that allows 40,000 spider species to produce silk. A strand of spider silk is finer than a human hair, and five times stronger than steel of the same diameter.

Spider silk interests researchers because of its unique qualities, such as elasticity, strength and low permeability. Because of these qualities, some companies have started seeking ways to adapt spider silk for human use in products such as bullet-proof vests.

Spider silk is the ultimate biomaterial because it is strong yet biodegradable, according to the journal Nature Chemical Biology.

Though researchers speculate spider silk would be useful as a clothing material, they had difficulty harvesting enough silk to directly test durability in clothing until recently, according to Dietrich.

Different biotech companies

and individual researchers have genetically modified other organisms, such as goats and silkworms, to produce spider silk.

A company called Spiber, located in Stockholm, Sweden, has genetically modified bacteria to produce the fibroin protein that makes up spider silk. To do this, they took a portion of the gene sequence that enables spiders to produce silk and cloned it into E. coli bacteria. Spiber can produce biomaterial silk in the forms of fiber, film, foam and mesh, according to their website.

The Center of PostNatural History, located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has genetically modified goats called BioSteel-TM Goats to do something similar, according to their website. The goats were genetically modified by transferring the silk-coding gene from the golden orb spider into the goat’s genome. This enabled the goat to produce silk in its milk, which scientists then harvested.

“Now that researchers have come up with some new ways to produce artificial silk that are much faster and more feasible, I predict that in the next couple years, we will see a lot more direct testing of silk clothes,” Dietrich said.



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# Study: Human memory larger than once thought

By Freya Preimesberger  
@thedailytexan

Rats are not renowned for their smarts. However, rat brains recently helped UT scientists make an important discovery about human memories.

In a study published in the journal “eLife,” neuroscience professor Kristen Harris from the Center of Learning and Memory and collaborators detailed their discovery that the human brain’s capacity for memory may be much larger than previously assumed.

In order to find these results, they took a small sample of brain tissue for computational modeling and analyzed its synapses.

“All of the data are from a tiny piece of rat brain, the size of a red blood cell,” Harris said.

The scientists used a tissue sample from the rat’s hippocampus.

“The hippocampus is crucial for storing memory,” neuroscience associate professor Hiroshi Nishiyama said. “Hippocampal neurons also encode

spatial information.”

The brain’s storage capacity is dependent on the number of synapses and the power of their connections. Synapses are pathways that control how chemical information is transmitted throughout the brain, and larger synapses tend to be more successful at activating nearby neurons. Multiple synapses often form between brain cells; because these multiple synapses undergo the same activity, they should all have the same strength.

The scientists remodeled the rat brain sample using serial section electron microscopy, which generates 3D images using a scanning electron microscope.

“Brain tissue is bewilderingly complex, more so than other organs,” co-author Justin Kinney said. “To capture this structure accurately, we must examine it at the nanometer scale.”

Electron microscopes are capable of generating images with 2.3 nanometer pixels. The brain tissue was very thinly sliced, imaged and reconstruct-

ed into a 3-D model, according to Kinney.

The modeling revealed that the parts of the brain cells that the synapses connected to had almost identical sizes. Researchers suggested that the precisely similar sizes of synapses could be related to proper functioning and the computational ability of the hippocampus.

Based on these reconstructions, researchers hypothesized that total human memory capacity may actually be ten times larger than they previously assumed. The sizes allowed researchers to estimate that a single synapse stores an average of about 4.7 bits.

Because of this discovery, the total storage capacity of the brain is now estimated in petabytes. A single petabyte contains as much information as about 62,500 smart phones. In 2001, the Internet stored about 295,000 petabytes, according to the journal Science Express, but this storage capacity was predicted to grow greatly.

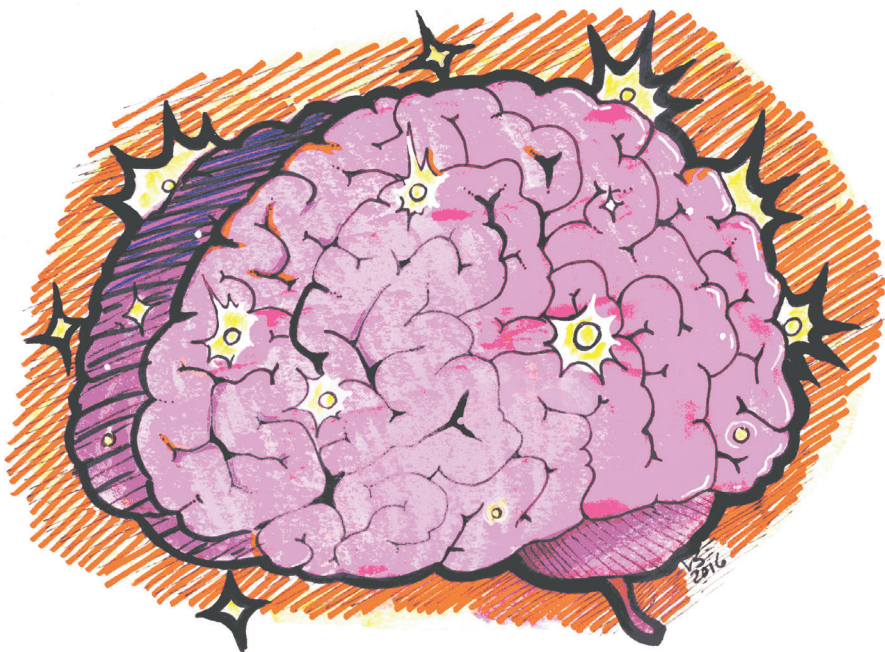


Illustration by Victoria Smith | Daily Texan Staff

Improperly functioning synapses are associated with neurological diseases such as Alzheimer’s.

“It is known that Alzheimer’s disease leads to loss of neurons and synapses, which take their stored information with them when they die,” co-author Thomas Bartol said. “Our discovery raises additional questions about whether brain disorders including Alzheimer’s disease might impact the precision of synapses’ sizes.”

This information may also help scientists design more efficient computers, according to a release from the Salk Institute. The brain’s precise synapse sizes and computational ability provides a model for more precise technology.

CAMPUS

## Student Government hopes to establish startup workspace

By Rachel Lew  
@rachelannlew

The Longhorn Entrepreneurship Agency (LEA) proposed Assembly Resolution 17 on Tuesday to build a collaborative workspace for student entrepreneurs to begin changing the world, one startup at a time.

Xinyi Wang, director of LEA — a student government agency designed to provide resources for student entrepreneurs — said UT does not have the infrastructure to support these students.

“Many other schools such as A&M, Harvard and MIT have a co-working space to collaborate on their startups, and it’s a bit crazy that we don’t have a space for student entrepreneurs,” said Wang, a business and psychology junior.



Courtesy of Xinyi Wang

Wang said a collaborative workspace for student entrepreneurs would facilitate conversations and allow students from different colleges to build a community.

“The reason we think it’s necessary to have this co-working space is because we want to build a community around entrepreneurship,” Wang said. “We need a physical space to anchor that community and foster that culture. Without that space, [the community] is very fragmented.”

Xavier Rotnofsky, student body president and co-author of the resolution, said LEA has made it a goal to create a collaborative workspace since its inception.

“This is the next level for the agency to run successfully,” Rotnofsky said. “The purpose of this space is to bring students from across campus and disciplines to work on the startups they’ve created. It’s an environment for self-incubation.”

Because Austin is the home of many startups, Rotnofsky said LEA hopes to build this space with support from local sponsors.

Wang said the biggest obstacle in proceeding with the resolution is the issue of space.

LEA director Xinyi Wang is working to create a collaborative workspace for student entrepreneurs.

“We’ve talked to administration, and they say they would love to have this, but the University is so packed that it’s hard to find space,” Wang said.

Mitch Chaiet, radio-television-film sophomore and student entrepreneur, said he thinks the space will provide an alternative to the corporate business atmosphere.

“There’s a stereotype about [entrepreneurs] — college kids starting businesses in dorm rooms — but having actually done that, it’s not a very conducive place to do that,” Chaiet said. “Having a centralized co-working space where I could have gone and met other freshmen my age starting startups — not in a classroom or program setting, just people getting together having fun and working on their own stuff — is the best organic way to find a co-founder.”

Chaiet, who created an app

called ConcertCam, said he would use the space to find co-workers for his business.

“I’d hope to use it as a place to interview people who might want to work on my startup with me,” Chaiet said. “You can rent a room in the library, but it’s just not the same as it would be to talk in a space made for entrepreneurship.”

Wang said the venue they are hoping to create would feature open spaces for networking and creative collaboration.

“There would be no cubicles — mostly open space with large tables, a couple of offices along the walls if people need more privacy, and a conference room,” Wang said.

Wang said LEA is in the process of talking to UT administration to figure out logistics, but said the entrepreneurship workspace would ideally be open before freshman orientation is held in the summer.

## RNA continues from page 1

in academia. It also helps graduate students learn to communicate their research to a novel audience.

In a study conducted by Gracia and his team, the project made graduate students feel that they could communicate their research more successfully.

“I think there’s a huge communication barrier between scientists and the rest of the world,” Gracia said. “It’s important for scientists to bridge

that gap and to improve interest in science and research in general.”

Gracia’s research on RNA also continues to gain momentum, as he and his collaborators recently developed a new technique called “rigorous quantification” to accurately evaluate the RNA they study. This advancement will allow researchers to manipulate genetic material with greater precision than ever and to fully comprehend the molecules they study.

Gracia discovered his passion for research while pursu-

ing his undergraduate degree.

“I found out that I was really interested in the underpinnings of why something happens physically,” Gracia said.

Gracia is thankful for his experiences at UT, including networking opportunities, knowledgeable professors and, most importantly, the guidance he received from his advisor while learning newfound research techniques.

“I feel lucky to have the opportunity to learn these things and to teach undergraduates about my research,” Gracia said.

## HD 49

continues from page 1

Statesman and CAD.

“With the important endorsement of the Central Austin Democrats, I’ve won almost every Democratic Club and labor union endorsement all across the district,” Hinojosa said in a statement. “I’m honored to be the choice of so many diverse voters in District 49.”

In some cases, when both CAD and U Dems endorse the same candidate for a particular race, the two groups combine to form the Austin

Progressive Coalition.

“With that coveted endorsement, [CAD and U Dems] combine a lot of their war chests together and ... go to many, many residents in Central Austin,” said Taral Patel, Student Government chief of staff. “There’s a community trust in the Austin Progressive Coalition, which is also another reason why ... by getting that endorsement, [candidates are] able to get a huge amount of support.”

For HD 49, neither candidate will receive the backing from the APC, but both

candidates will get a boost in campaign operations from their separate endorsers.

Mazhar said U Dems will be active on campus through blockwalking, tabling and advocating for Fischer until the March 1 election day.

The other candidates present at the U Dems’ House preview meeting on Jan. 27 were attorney Aspen Dunaway, former NARAL Pro-Choice Texas counsel Blake Rocap and UT law professor Heather Way. Two of the candidates — attorney Kenton D. Johnson and Matt Shrum — were not present.



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COLUMN

# Austin grows, diversity shrinks

By Laura Hallas  
Daily Texan Senior Columnist  
@LauraHallas

As a city, Austin is topping the charts. In 2015 it was named Next Biggest Boom Town, Best City for Tech and even the Best Large City to Live In. These rankings hold true for all of Austin’s populations except one: African-Americans.

Austin’s black population is suffering despite the city’s rapid expansion in every other measurement. From 2000 to 2010, Austin experienced a 20.4 percent growth overall, while in the same time its black population has experienced a net loss of 5.4 percent. And it doesn’t stop there. Of the top 10 fastest-growing cities in the U.S., Austin was the only one to experience this, going from 15 percent to a projected 5 percent in just a few decades.

“If you think about it, it’s nothing new,” said Edmund Gordon, department chair of African and African diaspora studies. “Since times of slavery, blacks have been moved around Central Texas based on economic and political processes.”

Austin’s 1928 “Master Plan” relocated all public facilities to what is now east of Interstate 35 as a part of legal segregation efforts to concentrate the black population. Black households moved closer to the “Negro District” that held all of the black schools and public parks. The segregation has survived into the present. Now, for the second time in the last 100 years, Austin’s African-American community is undergoing relocation.

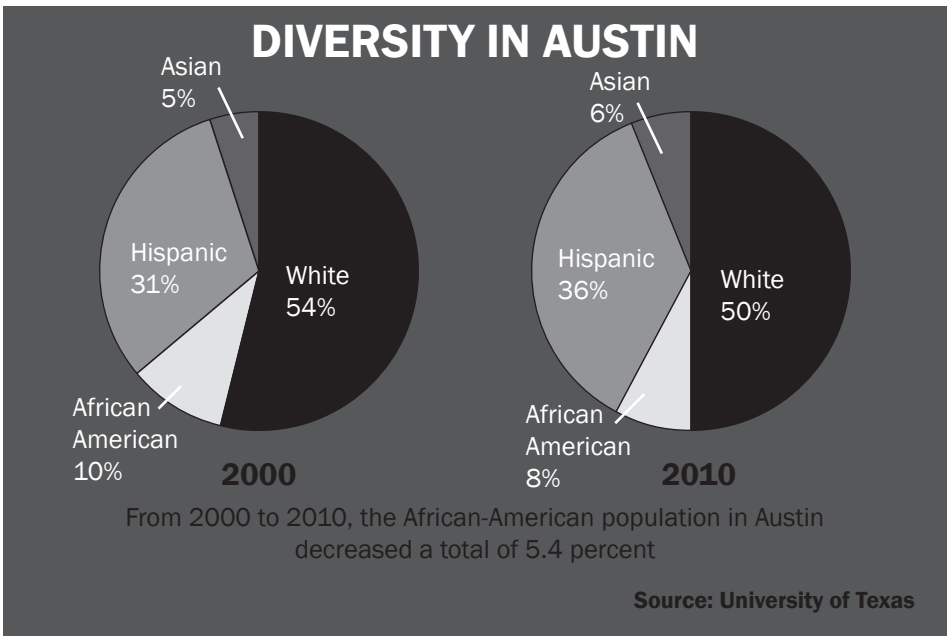
As Austin grows, students and young

“While Austin’s economic growth has done great things for the city, we can’t allow it to come at the expense of the small communities that have helped make the city so attractive in the first place.

professionals demand housing, driving up property values, and with them property taxes. When they later abandon the neighborhood, the high prices remain. The situation is made worse because Texas taxes property instead of income. The amount you pay varies with the value of your home. Residents sitting on valuable land can’t resist the pull of cheaper and more spacious living in suburbs like Pflugerville, so they leave. With them move African-Americans’ businesses, churches and sense of community, which in turn deters African-Americans who are considering moving to Austin.

Even UT has contributed to the problem. In the 1980s, UT began buying up land east of I-35 for development, razing entire neighborhoods to build university facilities. The conflict came to a head in the Blackland neighborhood (named for its soil), where residents banded together to protect their property.

Bo McCarver wrote his 1995 thesis on the “Blackland Miracle” and now serves as the board president of the Blackland Community



Infographic by Iliana Storch | Daily Texan Staff

Development Corporation. He said that while the nonprofit has helped stabilize the neighborhood’s black population, he has seen neighbors leave because of the shifting culture.

“When you’re beside one of those [new developments], they are huge; it’s pretty intimidating,” McCarver said. “Some of them have towers, some of them have fences around them. How do you borrow a cup of sugar through a fence?”

While Austin’s economic growth has done great things for the city, we can’t allow it to come at the expense of the small communities that have helped make the city so attractive in the first place. Young adults looking to

buy or rent property should make sure their arrival doesn’t replace established community members — many young renters just don’t realize the harm they cause. On a larger scale, the city and influential institutions like UT should join nonprofits in making affordable housing a priority.

With its rapid growth and rising status as a city of innovation, Austin is once again undergoing a shift in its black population. This time, we need to provide as much support as possible to preserve the history and heritage of African-Americans. This time, we have a chance to get it right.

Hallas is a Plan II freshman from Allen.

COLUMN

# Hinojosa prepared to fight for HD 49

By Noah M. Horwitz  
Daily Texan Senior Columnist  
@NmHorwitz

After being elected and re-elected a total of 13 times, longtime state representative Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin, shocked the local political community late last year by announcing his intention to retire. Naishtat represents the state legislature’s 49th district, which includes the University’s campus and surrounding neighborhoods. He leaves quite the legacy.

As a Democrat, he has fought hard against the extremist positions and programs espoused by Republican leadership in recent years, including those supported by Gov. Greg Abbott and former Gov. Rick Perry. However, Naishtat’s talents also include his abilities to work well with the other side of the aisle and get things done, especially as the vice chair of the Texas House public health committee.

There is only one candidate who can properly follow that legacy. Her name is Gina Hinojosa.

Hinojosa, who until recently served as the president of the Austin Independent School District’s board of trustees, has the requisite experience in politics and public service that her many opponents in the Democratic primary for this legislative seat simply do not possess.

“Once elected to the school board, I learned of the continuum of issues that affect young people in this state,” Hinojosa said. “With the state’s record low investment in higher education, college is too often unaffordable. Young people of color

“The voters in District 49 have a great opportunity in Hinojosa. They can select the candidate who can carry on Naishtat’s legacy on not only advocating for their beliefs, but also implementing them at the State Capitol.

disproportionately carry criminal records for life for personal drug possession. Young women have fewer options to make decisions about their reproductive health.”

A colleague on the editorial staff recently advocated for one of Hinojosa’s opponents, pointing to his youth as evidence of his commitment to the University and its students. But a record is a much better tool to judge a candidate. Hinojosa’s record proves she is undoubtedly the right candidate for us. On the school board, she was an instant leader and helped lead the fight against education cuts affecting students.

The next legislature is sure to bring about a diverse set of complex issues for legislators and constituents alike. UT is sure to be affected. With a possible Supreme Court ruling eliminating affirmative action here, the legislature may very well be compelled to revisit the Top 10 Percent Rule. The Texas



Daulton Venglar | Daily Texan Staff

Gina Hinojosa is a candidate running for state representative in House District 49.

Dream Act may also be revisited by those seeking its elimination.

The voters in District 49 have a great opportunity in Hinojosa. They can select the candidate who can carry on Naishtat’s legacy on not only advocating for their beliefs, but also implementing them at the State Capitol.

“Now students at UT will be forced into the dangerous situation that campus carry will bring,” Hinojosa said. “We’ve gone in the

wrong direction since I graduated from UT, and it’s unacceptable.”

Indeed, but I’d take Hinojosa’s comments one step further. While most all of the Democrats vying for this position recognize the problems, Hinojosa is the one who could most effectively be part of the solution.

UT students should consider these variables before casting their vote in District 49. Hinojosa is the best suited to effectively defend us.

Horwitz is a government senior from Houston.

COLUMN

# Worst of politics surface in Iowa caucuses

By Reagan Stuart  
Daily Texan Columnist  
@RealReaganStu

In shades of Florida in 2000, Monday night’s Democratic Iowa Caucus revealed that the voting process in the country does not always run as smoothly as we would like to imagine. Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton finished a mere 0.3 percentage points apart, the closest finish in the history of the party. Like the start of a football game, coin tosses decided at least seven precincts. One cannot help but wonder if this is a signal of larger issues.

The problems do not end there. There was the media’s ambiguity about events on the ground, leaving election watchers across the country in a state of confusion, and further undermining the public faith in the mainstream news. In one of the precincts decided

by coin toss, 60 people seemingly disappeared when it came time to count the votes. With a race this close and this contentious, the flaws became frustratingly evident.

The fact that supposedly democratic elections were decided by nothing more than 50-50 chance is hardly democratic. It is a cry for the modernization of the voting process. Surely the United States, proclaimed defender of democracy around the world, can spare the resources to invest in the most modern voting system.

As if the implementation of the voting weren’t bad enough, the mainstream media’s treatment of it was even worse. In the confusion and aftermath of the caucus, the media’s tendency to support the “establishment” candidates was very clear. CNN loudly proclaimed “Hillary Clinton wins Iowa caucuses,” when in reality she barely edged Sanders. Simultaneously, coverage of the Republican

caucus indicated that somehow Marco Rubio, who finished third, was the real winner. This inconsistent coverage only serves to confuse the public, crediting the candidates who fit the role the media wants while ignoring the actual results.

Journalism professor Robert Jensen says that the media’s coverage is biased in favor of Clinton.

“From coverage throughout the nominating process, it’s clear that mainstream corporate/commercial journalists are more comfortable with Clinton than with Sanders,” Jensen said.

The desire to create a narrative structure fits the media’s goals. Focusing on campaign strategy and momentum allows the media to create whatever story they’d like. Clinton is portrayed as the chosen leader, having patiently waited her turn. Rubio is the young, energetic upstart with bright ideas. The spe-

cifics of their platform need not be discussed. Just as during the lead-up to the Super Bowl we heard backstories about players from each team, the election is being depicted as a competition between personalities, not a question over the future of government.

However, politics is not just for sport. Lives do not hang in the balance of the 2016 Super Bowl. The outcome of this election will have real consequences for millions, perhaps billions, of people. The media’s portrayal of the events as high drama obscures the fact that as American citizens we are tasked with choosing the person best equipped to head our government for the next four years. If we wish to be responsible voters, it is best to disregard any talk of momentum or strategy, and focus on the actual substance that the candidates very willingly provide.

Stuart is a Plan II and business honors sophomore from Lubbock.

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WOMEN’S TENNIS

Longhorns shut out Roadrunners to win second-straight at home

By Aspen Detrick  
@A\_dtrick14

The Longhorns had no problems cruising to a second straight home win, shutting out UTSA 7-0 Sunday afternoon.

Texas (3-1) took the doubles point, winning two of the three matches. The 28th-ranked doubles tandem senior Breanna Addison and sophomore Dani Wagland defeated Miriam Canudas and Jacobea Junger 6-3. Senior Lana Groenvynck and junior Neda Koprcina posted a 6-2 win over Nicole Karaklis and Alena Shichkova. Lina Hallgren and Charleen Tiwari beat Texas freshmen Daniella Roldan and

Katie Poluta.

The Longhorns swept UTSA (3-3) in singles with No. 16 Addison, Wagland, Groenvynck, Poluta, Roldan and freshman Chelsea Crovetti all beating their Roadrunner opponents.

Addison won her first set against Karaklis 6-3. After losing the first game of the second set, Addison overtook Karaklis in the following five games to win the second set and match.

Addison, a two-time All-American, is now 19-2 in singles.

Hallgren squeaked out a first-set win 6-7 against Groenvynck, but Groenvynck followed with a 6-1 second set. The Long-

“

This is Texas’ second-straight shutout after last Wednesday’s 7-0 sweep over Incarnate Word.

horn senior then got a third-set win after a hard-fought battle.

This is Texas’ second straight shutout after last Wednesday’s 7-0 sweep over Incarnate Word.

The Longhorns travel to Houston to face Rice on Saturday at George R. Brown Tennis Center.



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Senior Breanna Addison won in straight sets to help the Longhorns earn their second-straight home win. Addison now boasts a 19-2 singles record.

MEN’S TENNIS

Texas goes 1–1 against two ranked teams

By Alana Kaufman  
@akauf810

Texas finished the weekend 1-1, taking a loss against No. 24 California and beating No. 18 Stanford.

In doubles play, Cal clinched the win despite Texas evening the score 1-1 after senior Michael Riechmann and sophomore Adrian Ortiz edged junior duo Filip Bergevi and Florian Lakat 6-2.

Texas and Cal split the first two sets in five of the six matches in singles play, but Cal took another win after defeating Texas. Freshman Harrison Scott fought hard against third-ranked junior Andre Goransson in three sets, but Goransson came out ahead taking the final set, giving the Golden Bears a 3-0 lead. Ortiz pushed his match to a third set but fell

6-3, giving Cal a 4-0 win.

“We were in position [to win] on a lot of courts, but we’re just having a hard time finishing these matches,” head coach Michael Center said. “We’re competing with the teams but have to find a way to get it done in the end.”

On Sunday against Stanford, Texas took a quick lead when Ortiz and Riechmann edged senior duo Nolan Paige and Maciek Romanowicz, 6-3. Stanford responded by clinching third doubles with a 7-5 win. Junior George Goldhoff and redshirt freshman Julian Zlobinsky secured the doubles point for Texas with a 6-4 win.

Stanford quickly rebounded and took a 3-1 lead. Texas rallied back after Scott edged sophomore David Wilczynski and Zlobinsky won his



Harrison Scott  
Freshman

match in three sets. With the score tied at 3-3, Ortiz went head-to-head with senior Nolan Paige. In a three-set tiebreaker, tied at 6-all, Paige approached the net with a forehand, and Ortiz lobbed him to end the match, clinching the win for Texas 4-3.

The Longhorns return to action against Rice on February 21st.

TRACK & FIELD

Okolo records world-leading time as Longhorns dominate

By Leah Vann  
@Vanntastic\_Leah

After taking last weekend off, the Longhorns’ track and field teams finished the weekend strong with four wins and eight runner-up finishes at the Husker Invitational.

Texas women dominated the meet with three first-place and two runner-up finishes. Senior Courtney Okolo finished with the highlight of the meet, clocking in a world-leading time of 51.16 seconds in the 400 meters. Okolo edged out former teammate and Nike athlete Ashley Spencer by four-tenths of a second.

The Longhorns also saw dominance in the 200 me-

ters with freshman Teahna Daniels taking the gold with a time of 23.98 seconds. In the 200 meter special invite, senior Morolake Akinosun took second place with a time of 23.50 seconds, just behind Ashley Spencer. Senior Melissa Gonzalez grabbed the women’s third gold with a personal best 1:33.78 in the 600 meters.

The relay team of freshmen Raquel Tjernagel and Zola Golden and sophomores Caitland Smith and Ariel Jones concluded the meet with a runner-up finish in the 4x400 meter relay, second to Kansas State’s team of four All-Americans.

The men saw victories both on the field and on the track. Senior Reese Wat-

son finished second in pole vault, behind Kansas’ Casey Bowen, with a personal best of 5.33 meters. On the track, junior Byron Robinson continued the 400 meter dominance with a first-place time of 46.74 seconds. Junior Senoj Givans clocked in 6.68 seconds to take silver in the 60 meters.

Junior AJ Bailey placed third with a time of 21.20 seconds in the 200 meter special invite. The men also finished the meet with a second-place finish in the 4x400 meter special invite with the team of juniors AJ Bailey, Robert Uhr, Christopher Irvin and Derrell Manhertz.

Both teams will be back in action this weekend.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Taylor, Longhorns face tough road ahead

By Jacob Martella  
@ViewFromTheBox

The last four games have gone as well as the Longhorns could have hoped.

Texas has won each of those four games — including a road win at No. 15 Baylor — and most bracketologists have them as nearly a lock for the NCAA tournament.

But now the schedule takes another step up. The Longhorns will face six ranked teams in their final eight games, including tonight's game against Oklahoma on the road.

"We are confident as a team right now, but we are not satisfied and we are not going to ease up," junior guard Isaiah Taylor said. "We know that we have a tough stretch of games coming up, and we are looking to go in and just compete in every game."

The Sooners won't have a No. 1 next to their name at game time after losing 80-69 at Kansas State on Saturday, but they will have a Buddy Hield. The senior guard, considered one of the best in the nation, sits ranked second in the country with 25.6 points per game and first with a 51.1 percent 3-point shooting percentage.

Hield, however, doesn't do it alone in the Sooner backcourt. Junior guard Jordan Woodard and senior guard Isaiah Cousins are both in the top 10 in the conference with 13.7 and 13.4 points per



Mike McGraw | Daily Texan Staff

Junior guard Isaiah Taylor dribbles the ball against Texas Tech on Saturday. Taylor said that he is confident that his teammates will compete in every game despite facing a stretch of six ranked opponents in an eight game span.

game, helping Oklahoma to a Big 12-leading 85 points per game.

Head coach Shaka Smart said the way Hield, Woodard and Cousins play off of each other makes it much harder to defend.

"They're all older," Smart said. "They're all very, very confident and they play together. [Woodard and Cousins], they make big shots. Every time Oklahoma needs a big shot, they make them."

The Longhorns counter with Taylor, who's on pace for a career year. Taylor is averaging 15.3 points per game and has scored in the double digits in all but five games this season.

But Taylor's passing has also improved, dishing out 5.1 assists per game, including 17 in the last two games.

"He does a great job surveying the floor, almost like a quarterback," Smart said. "When he plays with poise, he's really, really good at making that read, as good as anyone I've coached."

While the Lloyd Noble Center hasn't been kind to the Longhorns in recent years — no one on the team has won in Norman — they come into the game with confidence in facing ranked opponents. Texas is 4-2 this season against AP Top 25 teams, and two of those wins have come on the road.

Both Taylor and senior guard Javan Felix said those wins give them confidence to spring the upset, but Taylor said they "know it's going to be a dogfight."

"Regardless of what kind of number they have by their name, we're just going to come out every game and compete," Taylor said. "They're a good team. We're a good team too."

BASEBALL



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

Junior pitcher Josh Sawyer pitched four innings without giving up a hit on Saturday against the Texas alumni team.

Sawyer shuts out former Longhorns in exhibition

By Daniel Clay  
@dclay567

Junior pitcher Josh Sawyer threw four innings of no-hit ball. "Augie Ball" made a return to Disch-Falk Field to the tune of four runs.

In the end, the Longhorns walked off the field as 4-0 winners. But that score didn't matter on this day.

Instead, Saturday afternoon was about celebrating Texas baseball's past and giving the current Longhorns a history lesson with the annual alumni game.

"One of the things they learn is more about the tradition of the school," head coach Augie Garrido said. "Getting into conversations around the batting cages from the players, it gives [the current team] a sense of confidence and a sense of belonging and some excitement about the journey that's out in front of them."

Major leaguers like Drew Stubbs and Cameron Rupp took to the field for the alumni team, while minor leaguers Ben Johnson and Brooks Marlow returned to Austin for the first time as visitors.

But it was the current Longhorns who stole the show.

Facing off against professionals boosted the Longhorns' aggressiveness and provided the young Texas team with some exciting moments against professional level competition. The fun started in the first at bat of the game when Sawyer struck out Stubbs, a former Texas Ranger and former Longhorn co-MVP who

has been working out with the Texas team throughout the offseason.

"I should have had him in the second [at bat] too," Sawyer said. "It's always fun going out there with those guys."

At the plate, the Longhorns returned to the small-ball play that Garrido favors. Texas' first three runs came on balls that failed to get out of the infield.

The game also allowed a newcomer with family ties to the program to burst onto the scene for the Longhorns.

Freshman infielder Kody Clemens, whose father Roger pitched for the Longhorn team that won the 1983 College World Series before embarking upon a Major League career, showed potential with a 2-for-4 day with a run scored and an RBI.

The newcomer showed off his speed on a ringing double into the left field gap, and got the chance to join his brother, junior first baseman Kacy Clemens.

"It's awesome just to be around him all the time," Kody said. "I look up to him. He's my brother and he teaches me a bunch of stuff about the game."

The Longhorns open up the season with a three-game series against UNLV beginning Feb. 19. Garrido said the emphasis leading up to the start of the season will be on getting runs across the plate.

"Over the next ten days of practice we want to put an emphasis on offense and run scoring," Garrido said. "[We want to] find more ways to get bases that lead to runs."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | NO. 6 TEXAS 65 - 49 IOWA STATE

Texas weathers Cyclones behind Atkins' career game

By Tyler Horka  
@TexasTy95

The Longhorns looked to be in trouble early in the third quarter.

Iowa State had taken its first lead of the game, senior center Imani Boyette sat on the bench with foul trouble and junior guard Brianna Taylor had just left the court with a lower leg injury.

But No. 6 Texas fought back, outscoring the Cyclones 25-12 over the next eight minutes to take a 47-39 lead early in the fourth quarter. The team never looked back on its way to a 65-49 victory.

The Longhorns (21-1, 10-1 Big 12) had an entire week off before traveling to Ames, Iowa. Head coach Karen Aston said playing away from home is a tough task, despite the Longhorns' perfect 9-0 record in true road games.

"I can't discount the fact that we have players that may have a mental block with some of these road games," Aston said.

Taylor had just six points and three rebounds in ten minutes of action before injuring her lower right leg while playing defense.

Sophomore guard Ariel

Atkins, however, stepped up where Taylor left off, finishing the game with a career-high 22 points and 11 rebounds.

"It took a lot, if not everything, out of us today to get this win," Atkins told Fox Sports after the game. "I was just trying my best to get the best shot I could for my teammates."

With the Longhorns down 29-33 in the third quarter, senior guard Celina Rodrigo passed up a wide-open 3-point attempt and instead found Atkins in the paint for a layup plus a foul. The three-point play brought Texas to within one, 32-33.

Texas regained the lead and maintained it throughout the fourth quarter, but the Cyclones pulled to within five with less than five minutes remaining.

Atkins, who was starting a game for the first time this season after offseason ankle surgery, answered once again for the Longhorns with another old-fashioned three-point play. She said that there was a gap in the middle of the Cyclones' zone defense that she exploited.

"My teammates kept telling me, 'flash middle, flash middle,'" Atkins said. "It's going to give me more con-

“It took a lot, if not everything, out of us today to get this win.”

—Ariel Atkins, Guard

fidence in myself coming off the injury."

Boyette, the Longhorns' leading scorer at 12.8 points per game entering the matchup against the Cyclones, finished with zero points in 18 minutes before fouling out. She still brought down eight rebounds to help the Longhorns out-rebound the Cyclones 52-33. Texas has out-rebounded 20 of the 22 opponents it has faced this season.

The Longhorns return home to face No. 25 Oklahoma State (17-4, 7-3 Big 12) on Wednesday. The Cowgirls are coming off a 71-69 victory over No. 20 Oklahoma in Norman.

Aston said she knows how big each game is in conference play.

"I think the one thing that came out of this is that they may now understand you can't lose your focus," Aston said.



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

Sophomore guard Ariel Atkins drives against an Oklahoma defender on Jan. 23. Atkins had a career-high 22 points on Saturday.

SIDELINE

NFL

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BRONCOS	24

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IOWA	77
ILLINOIS	65

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Timothy Cole Jr.  
@Timbo\_Cole30

"Since Demarcus Ware used to play for the Cowboys, it's almost as if the Cowboys are in the super bowl too #imnotserious"

SPORTS BRIEFLY

**Women's golf sits second after one round**

Women's golf ended the first round of the UCF Challenge in second place at 11-over-par after 18 holes.

Junior Haley Mills led the Longhorns with an even par 72 to tie for third place. Sophomore Sophia Schubert finished tied for twelfth with a 2-over 74. Freshman Maddie Luitwieler carded two birdies, but her double bogey on hole 12, along with four bogeys, left her with a 76.

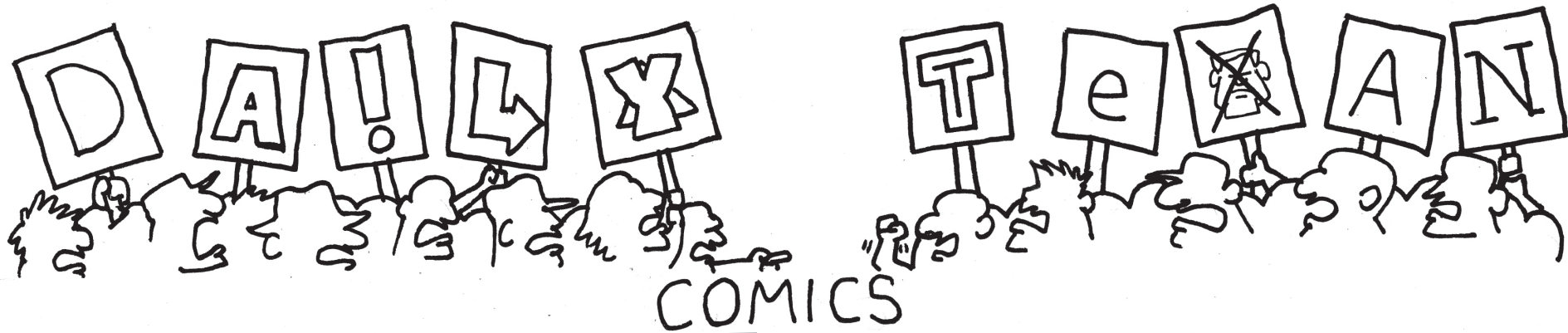
As of Sunday night, junior Julia Beck sits just one shot behind Luitwieler with a 5-over 77. She carded three birdies, but her six bogeys and one double held her back. Senior Tezira Abe struggled to play consistently with eight bogeys and two double bogeys. She's sitting tied for 78th, and will have her work cut out for her to climb back up the leaderboard.

Houston currently leads all 18 teams at 7-over while Missouri's Michelle Butler and Tulane's Emily Penttila share the individual lead with a 1-under 71.

The second and third rounds of the UCF Challenge will be held today and Tuesday.

—Rosalyn Barnett





CHINESE NEW YEAR

STRIP naked by CHESTER OMENUKOR



Whos your favorite possum. tumblr.com



TOOP TAMLIN

The World is Flat



theworldisflatcomics.tumblr.com

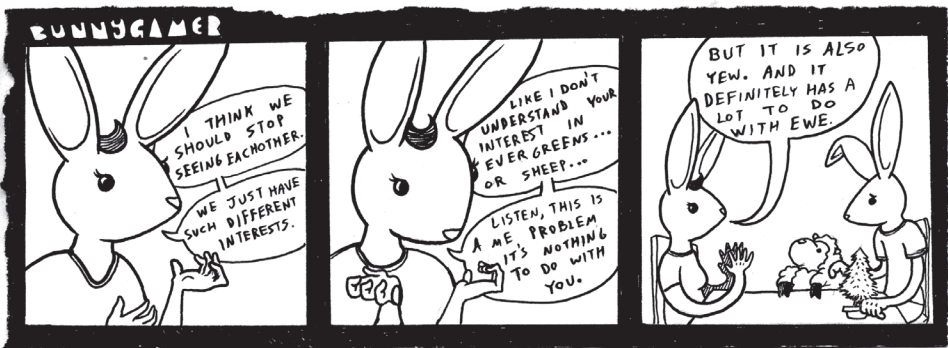
SCARY STORIES TO TELL AT LUNCH



BY JACKY TOVAR



L Moyer



Juan Agustín Rodríguez



Jessica Vacek



Today's solution will appear here next issue

					7				
8	6	7		3					2
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SUDOKUFORYOU

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8	9	6	2	5	4	1	3	7	

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0104

- ACROSS**
- 1 Small jump
  - 4 Burrito alternative
  - 10 Lion's sound
  - 14 April is the only month that has one
  - 15 Backbone-related
  - 16 Border
  - 17 Attila or one of his followers
  - 18 Gifts for guests
  - 20 Seeks answers
  - 22 Caddie's bagful
  - 23 Cap for a Special Forces member
  - 24 Alternative to Spot or Rover
  - 26 "S&@!" and "%&!"
  - 27 Friendly scuffles at sleepovers
  - 32 Hooty-tooty sort
  - 33 Jimi Hendrix hairdo
  - 34 Poems featuring 39-Across
  - 38 Dangerous, as winter sidewalks
  - 39 Acts of bravery
  - 42 Mare : horse :: : sheep
  - 43 Actress Thompson of TV's "Family"
  - 45 Double agent
  - 46 Group of eight
  - 48 Not good with large sums of money, in a saying
  - 51 Furnishes with new weapons
  - 54 Foot or yard
  - 55 Fire-setter's crime
  - 56 Jemima
  - 59 Scoffer's sound
  - 62 Real name of the Pillsbury Doughboy
  - 65 Rowboat propeller
  - 66 Thought: Prefix
  - 67 Harass, as a witness in court
  - 68 Gun in an action film
  - 69 TV rooms
  - 70 Outer parts of pizzas
  - 71 Agent, for short
- DOWN**
- 1 Response to a joke
  - 2 "This one's" ("Our treat")
  - 3 "The Wall" rock band
  - 4 Amount of cough syrup: Abbr.
  - 5 Judd who wrote and directed "Knocked Up"
  - 6 Muck
  - 7 One or two poker chips, maybe
  - 8 Brand of chips
  - 9 Sprite
  - 10 What the numbers 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 are in
  - 11 Scents
  - 12 Be of the same mind
  - 13 Observes the Sabbath
  - 19 Share a border
  - 21 Farm storage building
  - 25 Performs, to Shakespeare
  - 26 One of the three flavors of Neapolitan ice cream, for short
  - 27 Letters between chis and omegas
  - 28 Ancient alpaca herder
  - 29 Young, singer with the #1 country hit "Live Fast, Love Hard, Die Young"
  - 30 "Uncle," in poker
  - 31 Mourning
  - 35 Small frosted cake
  - 36 Is indebted to
  - 37 MacFarlane of "Family Guy"
  - 40 Cousins of ostriches
  - 41 Any second now
  - 44 Fittingly
  - 47 Trim, as a hedge
  - 49 Prefix with potent
  - 50 Beginning
  - 51 Swift
  - 52 Wear away, as soil
  - 53 Colorado ski town
  - 56 At a distance
  - 57 Official language of Pakistan
  - 58 Darkroom masters, for short
  - 60 Discombobulate
  - 61 Voyage
  - 63 Airer of the Olympics since 1988
  - 64 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.: Abbr.
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**
- BASS SWERVE MRS RITE HALOED YEW ORDER AROUND WVA WHEN IMSIXTYFOUR NONAME CRED IRIS FAREWELLS ENS LAMINATED RICEPILAF LOVEBEADS BRIP POLEDANCE DRIP SOUL POLEDALEAST PERSONALOPINION ETE TOMATOPASTE LIE ORISAN LETS LCD HASHED IDOS

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66							67				68	
69							70				71	

**PUZZLE BY HERRE SCHOUWERWOU**

29 Young, singer with the #1 country hit "Live Fast, Love Hard, Die Young"

30 "Uncle," in poker

31 Mourning

35 Small frosted cake

36 Is indebted to

37 MacFarlane of "Family Guy"

40 Cousins of ostriches

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Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, [nytimes.com/crosswords](http://nytimes.com/crosswords) (\$39.95 a year). Read about and comment on each puzzle: [nytimes.com/wordplay](http://nytimes.com/wordplay). Crosswords for young solvers: [nytimes.com/studentcrosswords](http://nytimes.com/studentcrosswords).



FILM

Females, minorities underrepresented in films

By Sebastian Sada  
@sseebbbaastian

After decades of limited on-screen opportunities, Hollywood’s leading ladies have risen from gloved housewives to gun-slinging heroines. However, despite rising representation, equality on screen — particularly for minorities — remains restricted.

Advertising sophomore Lorena Pena said the older she got, the more she realized representation of minorities was lacking. As a Hispanic woman, she said she found herself unable to relate to the characters on screen, especially when Hispanic women on-screen were sexualized.

“I definitely think [the lack of Hispanic representation] really affects a girl’s self-esteem,” Pena said. “The character’s physical features can make you feel like you don’t look the right way when you don’t see any actresses with your nose, your skin color or your body type. [The movement] is about representing women ... but it’s also about representing all women.”

Traditionally, attempts at diversification have been encumbered by the need to appeal to male audiences. While female protagonists faced forces of evil, the actresses embodying them faced far worse opponents — sexual objectification and stereotyping. Lead characters like Barbarella and Elektra lacked the agency that characterized traditional male heroes, and other female characters were merely trophies for men.

Recently, the tables have turned. Characters like Furiosa in “Mad Max: Fury Road” and Rey in “Star Wars: The

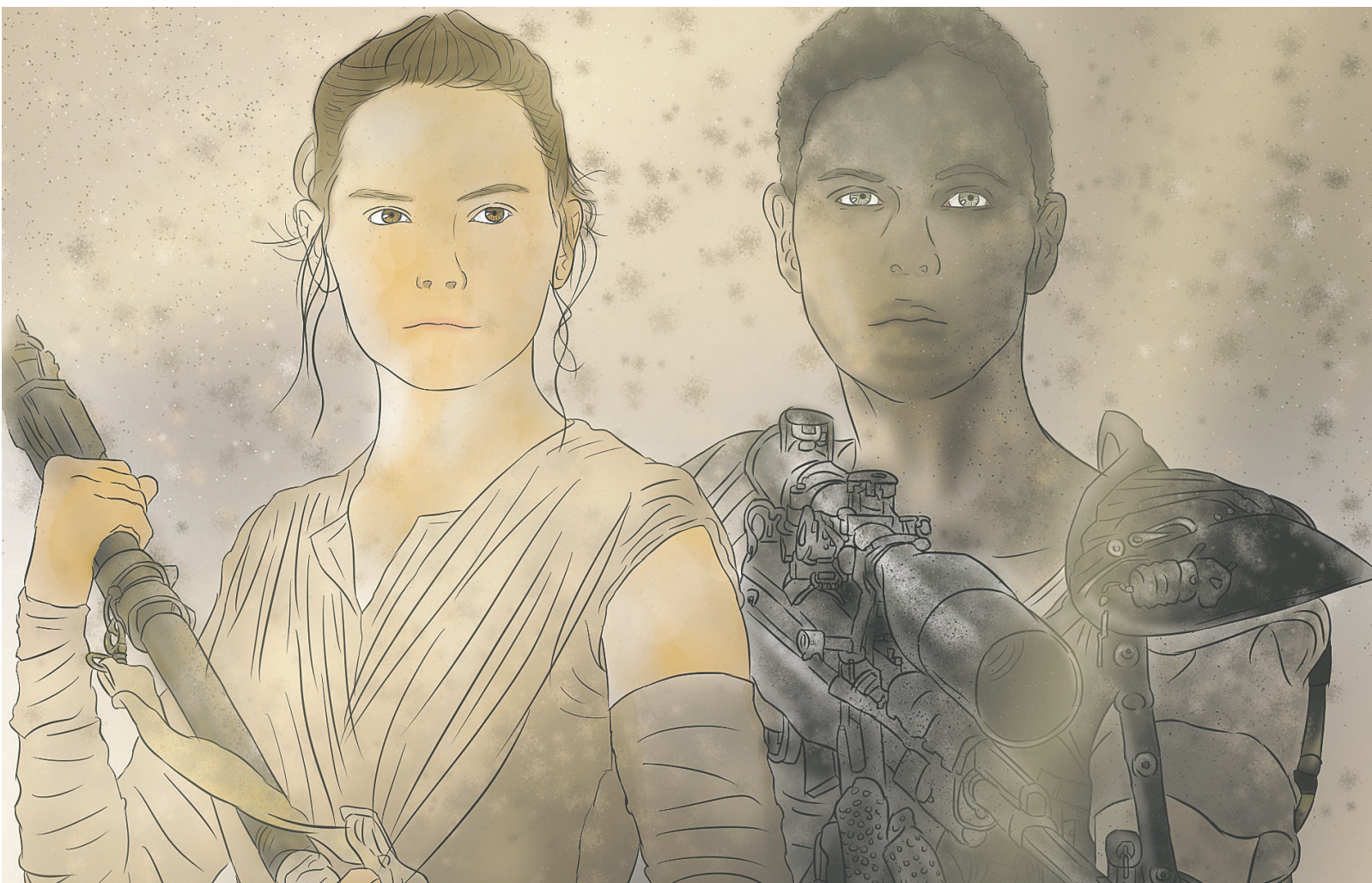


Illustration by Jason Cheon | Daily Texan Staff

Force Awakens” represent a shift away from vulnerability and overt sexualization of women. Their influence has been boosted by critical and commercial success, which, combined with other heroines breaking boundaries on screen, has prompted the development of more female-driven action flicks.

However, amid this emergence of female action stars, one group of women remains unaccounted for: minorities.

In 2015, a report by Dr.

Martha M. Lauzen indicated that minorities make up 26 percent of female characters, who in turn collectively make up only 30 percent of speaking characters in films. Female protagonists lead 12 percent of films, and most are portrayed by white actresses. The lack of ethnic diversity among heroines poses a serious issue for Hollywood, whose efforts to portray powerful women have thus far been limited for women of color.

Charlotte Howell, a Ph.D.

candidate in media studies, said she attributes this ethnic disparity to the marketability associated with white leads, even in nontraditional roles like Furiosa and Rey.

“Writers have got to make the argument [for representation] in [executives’] terms, usually capitalistic terms,” Howell said. “It’s a fundamentally different world for [women] of color in the film industry.”

While Howell said the rise in heroines is indicative of progress, cinema’s representation of

women should include actresses of various ethnicities.

“The rise in quantity of female action heroes is a positive,” Howell said. “Those who are helping to push for this change are going to take that as the stepping stone toward a wider spectrum of representation that will more closely reflect the world in which we live.”

Amid efforts to increase roles for women, hindrances like marketability and white partiality continue to provoke

conversation about the representation of women in film. According to communication studies freshman Julia O’Hanlon, representation in cinema can influence viewers’ perceptions of race and gender.

“I want young girls to understand that they can be successful and be a woman of color at the same time,” O’Hanlon said. “There are so many fantastic actresses who are women of color, [but] it’s going to take significant pushing to get them into the spotlight.”

MUSIC



Courtesy of Getty Images

Zachary Cole Smith and the rest of DIIV spent three troubled years developing *Is the Is Are*, but their hard work shows in a memorable project.

DIIV upgrades sound with second project

By Chris Duncan  
@chr\_dunc

Since the group’s first world tour in 2013, DIIV has lived a troubled existence with canceled tours, drug addictions and arrests plaguing the group’s success. After attending rehab and focusing on his music, DIIV frontman Zachary Cole Smith composed the group’s mesmerizing second album, *Is the Is Are*.

Hailing from Brooklyn, New York, DIIV found its initial success with 2012’s *Oshin*, a record which focused on a dream pop and shoegaze sound. Jangly guitars, immense reverb and murky production dominated the album, but the entire experience lacked a core element — something to drive each song’s melodies home. On *Is the Is Are*, released Friday, Smith finds that key component, bringing in solid guitar riffs to accompany each song’s instrumentation and provide a full

and hypnotic experience.

Production is the core of any DIIV record, and *Is the Is Are* doesn’t skimp in that area. Every track has so many layers of instrumentation, it’s almost difficult to listen to all 17 songs in a row. There are dozens of nontraditional rock choices, including a distinct pop structure and influences from post-punk on several songs and even krautrock on their song “Valentine.”

Almost every song has its own highlight, whether it’s a distinct beat or an infectious bass groove. The most obvious improvement on DIIV’s sound, however, is its pop influence. Smith and guitarist Andrew Bailey bring a lighter mood and easy-to-follow sound to some of the better songs on *Is the Is Are*, including the project’s lead single, “Dopamine,” and its 13th track, “Healthy Moon.”

Although the group did hone in on each song’s melodies with lead guitar lines, Smith’s vocals still sit extremely

far back in each song’s mix. These buried vocals could be enticing to some, but for most listeners, Smith’s cryptic messages and occasional vocal highlights will go unnoticed due to the album’s mixing.

Smith’s lyrical content also suffers from brevity at times, mainly during “(Napa),” when Smith repeats variations of “you will rise” throughout the song. Smith does have his shining moments lyrically, though, especially during the album’s best track, “Valentine,” when he sings, “And how many weeks have passed, and if I’m still who I was last,” referencing his struggles with addiction.

Clocking in at over an hour, one full listen to *Is the Is Are* is long, but in the end, it’s an overall fulfilling experience. Although some tracks tend to blend together due to repetitive beats and an obvious formula, this album feels like one fluid statement rather than a collection of songs.

**IS THE IS ARE**  
**Genre:** Dream Pop  
**Tracks:** 17  
**Rating:** B

Any longtime fans of DIIV will find exactly what they’re looking for in *Is the Is Are* — a minimal shoegaze sound highlighted with twangy guitars and enough reverb to sustain a note for an eternity. This record shows why DIIV is the definitive modern shoegaze band.

However, vocals are still forgone in many songs for a more holistic and encompassing aural experience. Naysayers might appreciate the additional focus on each track’s instrumental core, but *Is the Is Are* certainly won’t convert anyone from hating the group to loving it instantly.

*Is the Is Are* has a better overall experience than *Oshin*, but still lacks a well-rounded sound to make it the peak of DIIV’s potential.

MUSIC

The Who impresses with two unique rock albums

By Chris Duncan  
@chr\_dunc

**Who’s Next**  
**The Who**

**Tommy**  
**The Who**

After their first concept album, *The Who Sell Out*, The Who declared themselves a pop art group, living a consumerist lifestyle instead of the popular hippie culture. However, the band’s guitarist, Pete Townshend, quickly abandoned that idea once he met Meher Baba, an Indian spiritual master who inspired Townshend to compose his first rock opera.

*Tommy* tells the story of a deaf, dumb and blind boy and his struggles to communicate with the world. Written almost entirely by Townshend, the double LP is complex yet never loses sight of the pop melodies and lyrics that inspired The Who’s earlier work.

This record was quickly hailed as The Who’s mainstream breakthrough upon its release, with critics heaping praise upon the album’s conceptual narrative. Although its critical standing has diminished in the years after its release, *Tommy* still holds up as one of the most influential albums of its day.

**Tracks to listen to:**  
“Christmas,”  
“Pinball Wizard,”  
“Go To The Mirror!”

*Live at Leeds*, arguably the greatest live rock album of all time, followed *Tommy*; but The Who, and more specifically Pete Townshend, never stopped writing music. His sequel to *Tommy*, titled *Lifhouse*, was in the works for a year until Townshend suffered a nervous breakdown, resulting in the brand new effort of *Who’s Next*.

During the recording of this record, Townshend developed an infatuation with synthesizers, which can be found all over the album adding texture and force to every song. This is a loud and boisterous album, and it captures each member of The Who at their finest; drummer Keith Moon exercises no restraint, bassist John Entwistle plays infectious bass lines, and Roger Daltrey never sang better in his life.

Combined, all of these outstanding efforts make *Who’s Next* stand out amongst a sea of tremendous rock operas and concept albums as the band’s best.

**Tracks to listen to:**  
“Baba O’Riley,”  
“Behind Blue Eyes,”  
“Won’t Get Fooled Again”



Courtesy of Friedhan Von Estorff

*Who’s Next* displayed The Who at their finest, with each band member at their own individual peak.